Lahore bus service (being operated by Delhi Transport Corporation) is in operation In addition, in Srinagar, there is an arrangement since 7th April, 2005 of buses plying upto LOC and allowing passengers to cross the border and border the bus op the other side of LOC to reach Muzaffarabad. This service is being operated by Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation between Srinagar and LOC.

(b) As per information made available by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Jammu & Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC), DTC has earned a revenue of Rs.2,39,28,137/- during the period 11-07-2003 to 31-10-2005 and JKSRTC has earned a revenue of Rs. 8,49,000/- till date.

(c) As per information provided by DTC and JKSRTC, they have carried 17740 and 707 number of passengers respectively.

Clearance of National Highway Projects

1769. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Projects worth Rs. 482 crore are being thwarted for want of necessary clearance in Northern and Western regions of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that 62 projects of the Northern Region worth Rs.133 crore and 71 projects of the Western Region worth Rs. 349 crore are lying pending;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the clearances of the said National Highway Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no specific definition as to which States are identified in the Northern region and Western region. However, information is being given for the State of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh for the Northern region and for the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa for the Western region.

130 Nos. of National Highways improvement works included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 costing Rs. 324.07 crores were received from the State

Governments of Northern region out of which 71 Nos. of works have been sanctioned amounting Rs. 161.14 crore and balance works are at different stages of technical scrutiny.

69 Nos. of National Highway improvement works included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 costing Rs. 337.14 crores were received from the State Government of western region out of which 33 Now of works have been sanctioned amounting Rs. 120.24 crore and balance works are at different stages of technical scrutiny.

(d) All the works included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 are considered for sanction during the year based on *inter-se* priority and availability of funds subject to fulfilling of technical parameters.

Six laning of 6500 km of National Highway

1770. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering Rs. 22,750 crore project to lay six lane roads covering 6,500 km of National Highway;

(b) whether this proposal has been mooted on the direction of the Prime Minister;

(c) whether it would be implemented on the design build, finance and operate basis instead of the build, operate and transfer basis;

(d) whether the project would cover highways that carry traffic of 40,000 passenger can units a day; and

(e) if so, by what time the project is likley to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Committee on Infrastructure headed by Prime Minister has approved 6-laning of 6,500 km of existing 4-lane National Highways which will include the entire length of 5846 km of Golden Quadrilateral.

(c) Yes, Sir. It would be implemented on the Design, Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) basis through Public Private Partnership. DEFO is also one form of Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model.

(d) and (e) The details are under discussion with the Planning Commission.